

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 177921 TOSEC 080110

65

ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CCO-00

NEA-07 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETART PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 177921 TOSEC 080110

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:UN, NK, SK

SUBJECT:VIETNAM APPLICATIONS FOR UN MEMBERSHIP

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM CALLED IN ROK AMBASSADOR
HAHM LATE AFTERNOON JULY 28 TO CONVEY US DECISION ON UN
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.
BUFFUM SAID US IS PREPARED TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO
OTHER SIDE THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO EXERCISE THE VETO TO
PREVENT ADMISSION OF TWO VIETNAMS UNLESS FAVORABLE ACTION
TAKEN ON ROK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

2. IN EXPLAINING BASIS FOR US DECISION, BUFFUM SAID THAT
OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION WAS IMPORTANCE OF US RELATIONS
WITH ROK AND IN THIS CONNECTION REFERRED TO LETTER FROM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 177921 TOSEC 080110

PARK TO PRESIDENT FORD. NEVERTHELESS DECISION HAD BEEN

DIFFICULT. THERE WAS POSSIBILITY IT WOULD BE MIS-
INTERPRETED BY SOME STATES AND COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO
HEAD OFF ATTEMPTS TO EXCLUDE OR EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN.
US HAD NEVER VETOED UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND WE HAD
HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ICJ ADVISORY OPINION ON PLACING
CONDITIONS ON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS. WE HAD CONCLUDED
HOWEVER THAT EXCLUSION OF ROK WHILE ADMITTING TWO VIETNAMS
WOULD ITSELF BE A DENIAL OF UNIVERSALITY PRINCIPLE.

3. FOR PRESENT, WE WOULD HOPE TO HEAD OFF NORTH AND
SOUTH VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS BECAUSE WE ARE
UNCERTAIN THAT ROK APPLICATION COULD OBTAIN NECESSARY
NINE VOTES EVEN IF SECURITY COUNCIL AGREED TAKE UP
QUESTION NOW. HAHM AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT AND SAID
ONLY POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING NINE AFFIRMATIVE VOTES
WAS ON CONDITION THAT US MAKE LINKAGE WITH VN
APPLICATIONS UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR.

4. BUFFUM SAID WE PLANNED TO APPROACH SOVIETS REFERRING
TO OUR REPLY EARLIER THIS SUMMER TO THEIR QUERY ABOUT
THE PRG AND NVN APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP. USSR HAD
NEVER REPLIED TO OUR OBSERVATION THAT THESE APPLICATIONS
RAISED QUESTION OF OTHER DIVIDED STATES, SOUTH AND NORTH
KOREA. IN OUR PLANNED APPROACH, WE WOULD TELL SOVIETS
WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO PERMIT ENTRANCE OF VN UNLESS ROK
ALSO ACCEPTED FOR MEMBERSHIP. WE WOULD THEN LEAVE IT TO
THE SOVIET UNION TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT COULD PERSUADE
NORTH KOREA TO DROP OPPOSITION TO MEMBERSHIP OR WHETHER
IT WOULD SEEK TO DISCOURAGE APPLICATIONS OF NORTH AND
SOUTH VIETNAM.

5. ROK AMBASSADOR AGREED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO RE-
ACTIVATE ROK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WITH EITHER PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL OR SYG. BUFFUM
SUGGESTED THAT ROK LETTER DRAW ATTENTION TO LONG PENDING
ROK APPLICATION REITERATING CONTINUING ROK INTEREST IN
EARLY ADMISSION AND STATE THAT ROK WOULD APPRECIATE SC
CONSIDERATION OF ITS APPLICATION AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE
OPPORTUNITY. LETTER WOULD NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUEST SC
MEETING. BUFFUM AND HAHM AGREED THAT ROK MISSION IN
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PAGE 03 STATE 177921 TOSEC 080110

NEW YORK SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH USUN ON TACTICS
TO BE FOLLOWED AND WORDING TO BE USED IN RE-ACTIVATING
ROK APPLICATION.

6. HAHM INTERJECTED THAT IF APPLICATION GOT TO RESOLUTION
STAGE IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT ROK APPLICATION DID NOT IN
ANY WAY LESSEN DESIRE FOR UNITED KOREAN NATION OR
PREJUDICE EVENTUAL UNIFICATION.

7. BUFFUM AND HAHM AGREED THAT US DECISION RE USE OF VETO BE KEPT IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. PUBLIC POSITION WOULD BE THAT QUESTION OF UNMEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WAS IMPORTANT AND REMAINED UNDER STUDY.

8. BUFFUM EMPHASIZED THAT US WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT PACKAGE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER SIDE. BOTH AGREED THAT THERE NO EVIDENCE THAT NORTH KOREA HAD CHANGED OPPOSITION TO UN MEMBERSHIP AS SEPARATE ENTITY. HAHM,

WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING UNCERTAINTY OF OUTCOME, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF ROK FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT PARK FOR US DECISION.

9. FOR USUN: REQUEST YOU CONCERT WITH ROK MISSION ON TACTICS OF HANDLING RE-ACTIVATION OF ROK MEMBERSHIP. INGERSOLL

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